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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

- 1 (previously presented): A postal processing facility including a sorting system that receives mail in trays and sorts mail to trays and a dock area including a plurality of transportation docks that provide interface with transportation vehicles, comprising:
a receiving and dispatching system having at least one receiving and dispatching assembly that loads trays of sorted mail from a sorting system to transportation fixtures and unloads trays of mail to be sorted from transportation fixtures to the sorting system; and
wherein said receiving and dispatching system is at the dock area of the postal processing facility thereby providing substantially direct movement of fixtures between transportation vehicles and said receiving and dispatching system.
- 2 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 1 wherein said receiving and dispatching system includes at least one receiving and dispatching assembly that is adapted to both unload transportation fixtures and load transportation fixtures.
- 3 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 2 including a plurality of said receiving and dispatching assemblies, a sortation conveyor having a main line defined by a conveying surface and a plurality of spurs, extending from said main line to said receiving and dispatching assemblies.
- 4 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 3 wherein said spurs include separate spur lines for moving trays from said sortation conveyor to the receiving and dispatching assemblies and for moving trays from said receiving and dispatching assemblies to said sortation conveyor.
- 5 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 3 wherein said conveying surface is a continuous loop.

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6 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 3 wherein said conveying surface is elevated with respect to said receiving and dispatching assemblies.

7 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 3 including individual enclosures around said receiving and dispatching assemblies with a moveable gate that can be selectively opened to allow other transportation fixtures in other receiving and dispatching assemblies to be loaded or unloaded while one transportation fixture is being removed.

8 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 1 wherein said transportation fixtures are wheeled carts.

9 (previously presented): A postal processing facility including a sorting system that receives mail in trays and sorts mail to trays, comprising:

a receiving and dispatching system that loads trays of sorted mail from a sorting system to transportation fixtures and unloads trays of mail to be sorted from transportation fixtures to the sorting system; and

wherein said receiving and dispatching system includes at least one receiving and dispatching assembly that is adapted to both unload transportation fixtures and load transportation fixtures.

10 (previously presented): In a postal processing facility including a sorting system that receives mail in trays and sorts mail to trays and a dock area including a plurality of transportation docks that provide interface with transportation vehicles, a method of receiving trays of mail from transportation fixtures and dispatching trays of mail to transportation fixtures, comprising:

providing a receiving and dispatching system having at least one receiving and dispatching assembly that is operable to load trays of sorted mail from a sorting system to transportation fixtures and unload trays of mail to be sorted from transportation fixtures to the sorting system; and

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substantially directly moving fixtures between transportation vehicles and said receiving and dispatching system.

11 (previously presented): The method of receiving and dispatching trays in claim 10 including positioning said receiving and dispatching system at said dock area.

12 (previously presented): In a postal processing facility including a sorting system that receives mail in trays and sorts mail to trays, a method of receiving trays of mail from transportation fixtures and dispatching trays of mail to transportation fixtures, comprising:

providing a receiving and dispatching system adapted to load and unload transportation fixtures;

loading trays of sorted mail from a sorting system to transportation fixtures and unloading trays of mail to be sorted from transportation fixtures to the sorting machine; and

wherein said loading and unloading include commonly loading and unloading with a common receiving and dispatching assembly.

13 (previously presented): The method of receiving and dispatching in claim 12 including providing a receiving and dispatching system having a transport mechanism adapted to load trays of mail to transportation fixtures and unload trays of mail from the transportation fixtures.

14 (previously presented): The method of receiving and dispatching in claim 13 including providing a plurality of said transport mechanisms.

15 (previously presented): The method of receiving and dispatching in claim 14 including loading trays of mail to transportation fixtures with ones of said transport mechanism and unloading trays of mail from the transportation fixtures with others of said transport mechanisms.

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16 (previously presented): The method of receiving and dispatching in claim 14 including loading trays of mail to transportation fixtures and unloading trays of mail from transportation fixtures with substantially all of said transport mechanisms.

17 (previously presented): A postal processing facility including a sorting system that receives mail in trays and sorts mail to trays and a dock area including at least one transportation dock that provides interface with at least one transportation vehicle, said postal processing facility comprising:

a receiving and dispatching system that is operable to load trays of sorted mail from a sorting system to transportation fixtures and to unload trays of mail to be sorted from transportation fixtures to the sorting system; and

wherein said receiving and dispatching system provides substantially direct movement of fixtures between transportation vehicles and said receiving and dispatching system.

18 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 17, wherein said receiving and dispatching system includes at least one receiving and dispatching assembly that is adapted to both unload transportation fixtures and load transportation fixtures.

19 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 18 including a plurality of said receiving and dispatching assemblies, a sortation conveyor having a main line defined by a conveying surface and a plurality of spurs, extending from said main line to said receiving and dispatching assemblies.

20 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 19, wherein said spurs include separate spur lines for moving trays from said sortation conveyor to the receiving and dispatching assemblies and for moving trays from said receiving and dispatching assemblies to said sortation conveyor.

21 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 19, wherein said conveying surface is a continuous loop.

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22 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 19, wherein said conveying surface is elevated with respect to said receiving and dispatching assemblies.

23 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 19 including individual enclosures around said receiving and dispatching assemblies with a movable gate that can be selectively opened to allow other transportation fixtures in other receiving and dispatching assemblies to be loaded or unloaded while one transportation fixture is being removed.

24 (previously presented): The postal processing facility of claim 17, wherein said transportation fixtures are wheeled carts.